

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06655 300414 Z

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E. O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: JAPAN AND DRV

REF: STATE 101950

SUMMARY: PROVIDED KISSINGER - LE DUC THO TALKS CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, GOJ INTENDS TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV. GOJ SEEKS ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS AND IS PREPARED REBUT POINTS DRV MAY RAISE DURING NEGOTIATIONS. FONOFF FORSEES EXTENDED NEGOTIATIONS CULMINATING IN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS IN FALL. GOJ HOPES MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH US THROUGHOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF, ASIA BUREAU DIRGEN, YOSHIDA, CALLED IN DCM MAY 28 TO EXPLAIN GOJ PLANS CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV AND POLICY ON ENTRY OF PRG- AFFILIATED PERSONS INTO JAPAN (TOKYO 6580). NOTING THAT AMB USHIBA HAD DESCRIBED GENERAL CONCLUSION REACHED AT MEETING OF JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO INDO- CHINA COUNTRIES HELD IN TOKYO MAY 17-18 TO AMBASSADOR GODLEY AND DEP ASST SEC SNEIDER, YOSHIDA SAID HE WISHED TO MOVE ON TO EXPLANATION OF GOJ' S APPROACH TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TOKYO 06655 300414 Z

2. YOSHIDA SAID THAT IF CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF KISSINGER- LE DUC THO TALKS WHICH BEGIN JUNE 6, GOJ WOULD INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IF KISSINGER - LE DUC THO TALKS BROKE DOWN OR PRODUCED EVIDENCE OF MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF PEACE AGREEMENT, GOJ WOULD RECONSIDER DECISION, BUT ASSUMING TALKS IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS, GOJ WOULD WISH START NEGOTIATIONS. YOSHIDA DAID GOJ HAD HAD NO CONTACTS WITH DRV CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS SINCE MIYAKE TRIP TO HANOI IN APRIL. WHILE IT PROBABLE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN HANOI, THERE NO AGREEMENT ON EVEN THIS POINT.

3. YOSHIDA SAID GOJ OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. AS INDICATED DURING MIYAKE VISIT, DRV MIGHT WELL RAISE THREE PROBLEMS DURING NEGOTIATIONS, NAMELY CRITICISM OF US BASES IN JAPAN, WORLD WAR II REPRATIONS AND GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD PRG. YOSHIDA SAID GOJ WAS PREPARED TO REBUT EACH POINT. GOJ WOULD INSIST THAT US BASES ISSUE WAS BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN JAPAN AND US WHICH NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION WITH THIRD PARTIES. GOJ FELT NVN' S INTEREST IN REPRATIONS WAS AS LEVER TO OBTAIN GREATER ECONOMIC AID. GOJ EXPECTS DRV WILL RAISE BUT LATER DROP REPARATIONS QUESTION. SHOULD DRV RAISE PRG ISSUE, GOJ WILL ARGUE THAT JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH ENTITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE NOT APPROPRIATE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM.

4. YOSHIDA SAID NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME AND PREDICTED THAT IF ALL GOES SMOOTHLY RELATIONS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ESTABLISHED IN AUTUMN. IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT PROGRESS SMOOTHLY, YOSHIDA SAID GOJ MIGHT CONSIDER UNILATERAL RECOGNITION OF DRV. WHEN ASKED REASONS FOR UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF RECOGNITION, YOSHIDA REPLIED THAT IF MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH DRVS, GOJ WOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO DO LIKEWISE. IF GOJ- DRV NEGOTIATIONS ARE STALLED, ONE WAY TO DEFUSE SUCH PRESSURE ON GOVT WOULD BE TO

SECRET

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 06655 300414 Z

EXTEND UNILATERAL RECOGNITION. YOSHIDA ARGUED THAT A PRIME PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS OR UNILATERALLY RECOGNIZING DRV WOULD BE TO FACILITATE MAJOR AID PROGRAM TO HELP STABILIZE GVN ECONOMY BY DEFLECTING ARGUMENTS OF DOMESTIC OPPONENTS OF AID TO GVN. YOSHIDA ADDED THAT DRV WOULD BE TOLD THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WOULD FACILITATE JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID TO NVN.

5. YOSHIDA SAID THAT, AS EVIDENCED BY PRESENT MEETING,
GOJ WISHED MAINTAIN CLOSEST CONSULTATIONS WITH USG
THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV. DCM SECONDED
IMPORTANCE OF FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION
CONCERNING VIETNAM. YOSHIDA CONCLUDED BY REITERATING
THAT GOJ WOULD NOT APPROACH DRV UNTIL RESULTS OF
KISSINGER - LE DUC THO MEETINGS KNOWN.
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